



stem from Nabataean or later times. An old path leads up to Djebel Qarun, with the ruins of a small building, a stone basin, and stairs going up to it. Washed down the slope are so many Nabataean sherds, including lamp fragments and painted pottery, that a Nabataean mountain sanctuary or shrine can be assumed (FIG. 1).

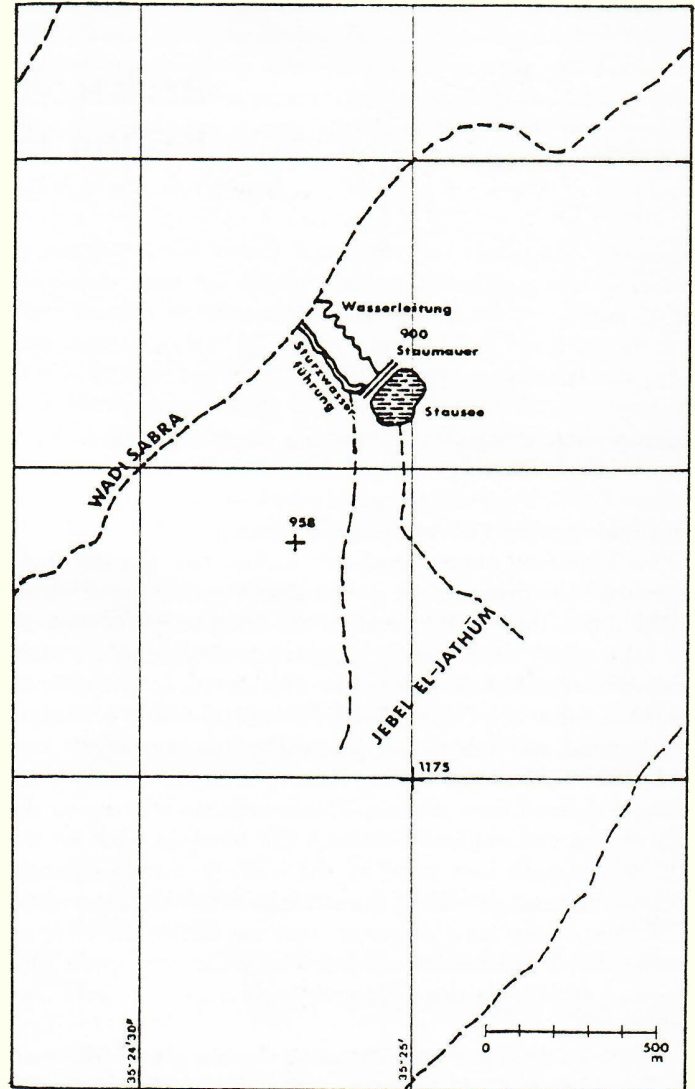
At Sabra, south of Petra, a barrage of 14 m length (5 m high, 4 m wide) was discovered 100 m above the wadi floor. A rock conduit led the water down to the valley, perhaps into the settlement. Ingeniously built channels and cascades into basins were used (FIGS. 2 and 3). The theatre of Sabra was measured and its surroundings explored. Architectural fragments were collected and described, and a close temporal and cultural relation with the Petra of the first centuries AD established. Only a simplified or unfinished Ionic capital is so far without a parallel at Petra.

An excavation undertaken together with the Department of Antiquities verified the existence of a building with stuccoed columns on the wadi bank. An isolated find during the dig was the torso of a marble statuette of a hair-drying Aphrodite. An arcosolium rock chamber in the foot of Djebel el-Jathum contained Late Nabataean and Late Roman pottery, a glass flask, the fragment of a marble nimbus, and two used Late Roman lamps, together with two coins of Gallienus and Julia Domna, the latter with the inscription 'Petra' in Greek letters.

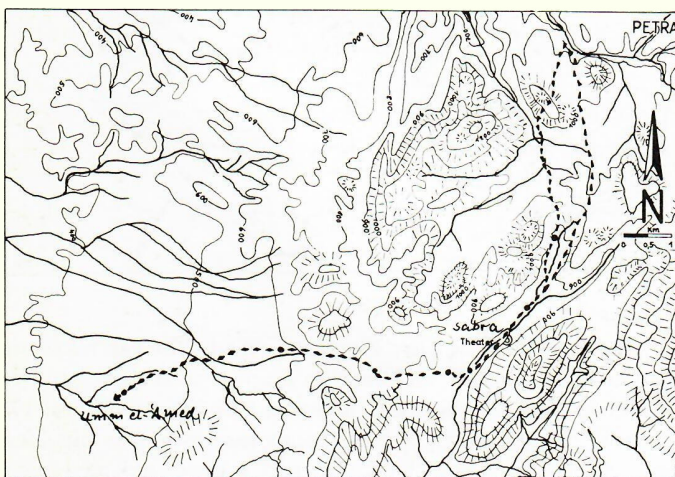
1300 m down-wadi a columned building lies in ruins above an S-curve. On top of the ridge above is a prehistoric site with three ruined buildings (?), grinding plates, grinders and coarse pottery. 100 m farther on, the wadi was dammed up in antiquity. Heavy fragments of columns and architraves were carried for up to 6 km down the wadi by storm floods.

One kilometer after the end of Sabra, on the right bank of the wadi, an old trail winds up to several plains. On the first one, beside recent graves, many pottery sherds on a flat hill may indicate a Nabataean or Late Roman necropolis. The trail or path passes westward through an artificial rock corridor of 24 m length. Before and after this section, in fact from

3. Catchwater regulation system and conduit at Sabra.



2. Petra—Sabra—Umm el-Amed.



the outskirts of Petra, the trail is secured with fundaments and border stones in a way that indicates that it must have been planned and built as *one* project for loaded camels. Many features remind one of the Nabataean or Late Roman period, and this also seems to be true for a big water reservoir not far from it. The brooks of the plain join in a now sand-filled tongue leading into a long gorge, in front of which a wall was built 11 m long and 6 m high. After 70 m the gorge ends with a thickly plastered basin and a similarly plastered cistern, originally covered with wide (65 cm) arches. The trail was not followed.

After crossing Naqb adh-Dhawi near the spring of the same name, about 15 km west from Sabra, a tower tomb is seen (FIG. 4) carved out of a rock spur with a necropolis at its foot. It is an imposing landmark. I am convinced that in the last century by David Roberts, who regarded a drawing of it was made it as a watch tower. The pottery, according to

4. Tower tomb ca. 15 km west from Sabra.



N. Khairy, is Nabataean, but rather coarse. Thinner and finer painted ware, together with a Nabataean coin, was found in a building nearby. A copper mine called Umm el-Amed ca. 20 km west of Sabra was visited during the same excursion. Pillars of stone, left after the mining, support the ceiling just as in another Umm el-Amed ca. 5 km south of Feinan.

On the watershed between Petra and Sabra the ruins of a columned building mark the point where one of the two branches of the above-mentioned trail reaches the basin of Petra. Another building complex is situated on the way to Djebel el-Barra. Many Nabataean sherds and a big cistern prove this to be an important Nabataean site. A neolithic site nearby was reported to H. G. Gebel (Tübingen), and verified by him a year later.

The well-known double nefesh in the entrance of the Siq Umm el Hiran north of Petra sports not only the Greek inscription published by Musil, but also—in a *tabula ansata*—a Nabataean inscription not mentioned so far as I can see. East of the Siq exit, an antique settlement consists of about fifty small stone houses, all of them in ruins. In a recently-built house a vaulted arch has been re-erected. Channels emerging from a siq-like gorge behind the village led water to a cistern (FIG. 5). The exit of the Siq behind the village could be blocked by a stout wall. A few Nabataean inscriptions between Siq and village are difficult to reach and to read. The local Bedouin call the whole area Baga; I call the settlement Baga I. It seems to be at least two-phasic, and an Iron Period use is relatively certain.

By climbing up the gorge, 500 m from the mouth of the Siq, a broad rising slope is reached. On its ridge, ca. 100 m above Baga I, a neolithic (PPN) site was discovered by us, and subsequently verified by H. G. Gebel, who calls the site Baga 1; I call it Baga II. (FIGS. 6 and 7).

If one climbs upward through a series of chimneys and steep gorges north of the Siq, 150 m above the village, an ancient place of refuge ('Fliehburg') is reached. Tower-like rock domes are chiseled into platforms for houses and/or water reservoirs.

Two pear-shaped cisterns with rectangular openings are of the same kind as those on top of Umm el-Biyara (Petra) and es-Sela (near Buseirah). Small holes in the rock with tiny curved channels leading to them may represent places of sacrifice. The surface finds comprise big grinding plates, and Edomite pottery. I call this site Baga III. It is not surprising that the place of refuge is located above the ancient trail between Feinan (Fenan) and Petra.

These explorations, described in brief here, are published *in extenso* with sketch maps and bibliography in the book, Manfred Lindner (ed.): *Petra—Neue Ausgrabungen und Entdeckungen*, Delp-Verlag, München 1986, with chapters by A. Hadidi, P. Hammond, H. G. Gebel, I. and K. Parlasca, N. Khairy, F. Zayadine, M. Mackensen, A. Hauptmann, M. Abu Safat, E. A. Knauf, A. Killick and M. Lindner.

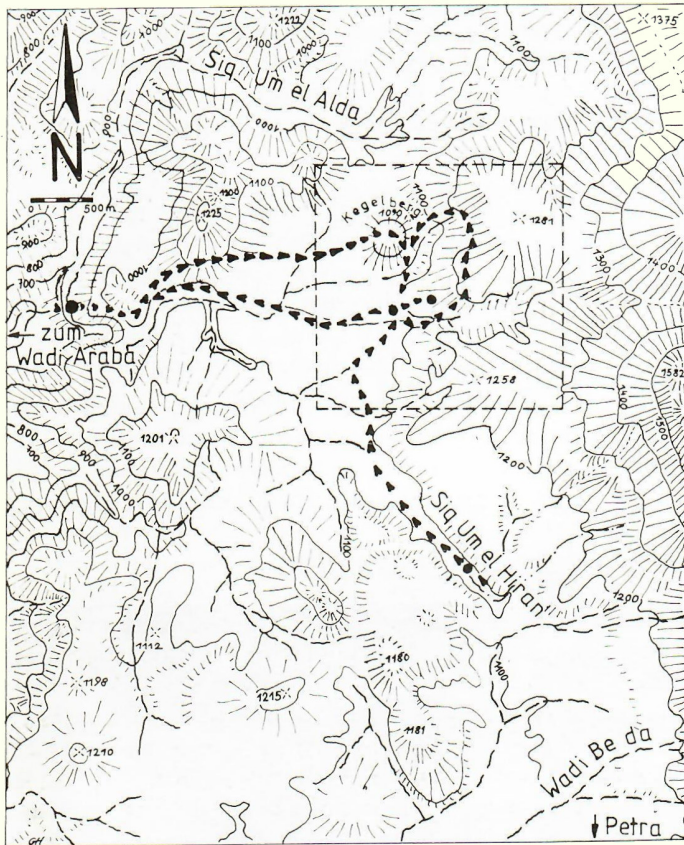
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On Djebel el-Khubtha, during an intensive examination, one

5. Channels emerging from the Siq of Baga I.



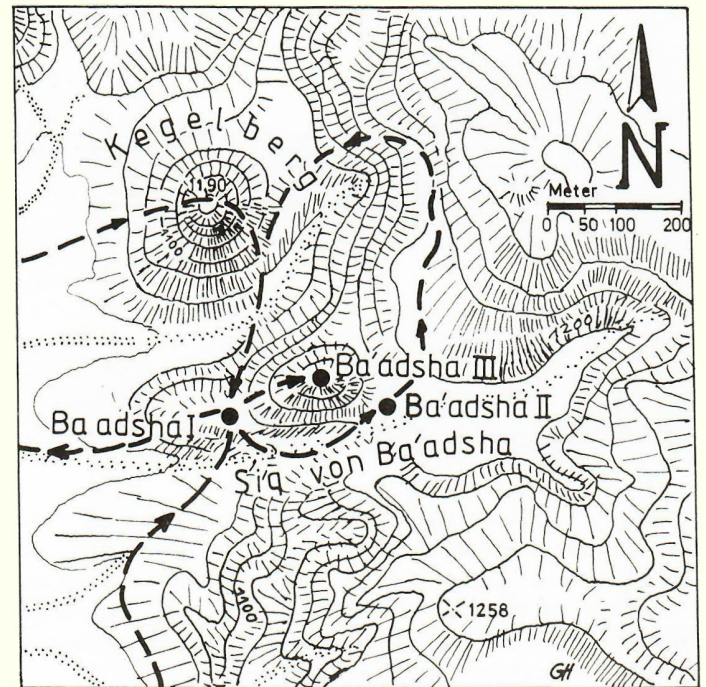
6. Siq Umm el Hiran—Baga—Wadi Araba—‘Kegelberg’ (Cone-shaped mountain).



of the horned altars in relief showed the square eyes and the band-like nose of a schematic face, no doubt of al-Uzza. Together with a big cistern nearby, an al-Uzza-Dushara Sanctuary enriches the holiness of the mountain.

The caravan route from Petra via Sabra led to two springs, Ain adh-Dhawi and Ain adh-Dhaman. From both of them pathways led to Abu Khusheiba and from here either into Wadi Araba or across Naqb er-Rubai to Petra. The Caravan

7. Location of Baga I, II, III.



Station Abu Khusheiba was thoroughly examined. It was most probably built in the Nabataean period and gradually neglected after the Roman occupation. There can be no doubt now that also the caravan routes and ‘roads’ of the region were built in Nabataean time.

In Baga I a Nabataean inscription was found exactly above the barrage wall which has to be supposed at the Siq exit. Baga III was again the aim of five members of the expedition of the Naturhistorische Gesellschaft Nürnberg. The identification of the pottery has not been finished. It seems, however, that Baga III was an Edomite stronghold with at least five big cisterns, and ‘gardens’ reaching down almost to the foot of the mountain. So it may have been an ‘acropolis’ as well as an almost inaccessible, or at any rate easily defendable stronghold of the 8/7th century BC.